

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) Apparatus for adjusting exhaust flow in a hot plate apparatus, comprising:

a programmable exhaust control regulator generating a first input signal to a motor control circuit;

an exhaust flow meter generating a second input signal to the motor control circuit; and

a motor driven control valve ~~moved~~ moveable to different positions according to the first and second input signals, the control valve being installed in an exhaust portion of the hot plate apparatus.

2.(Original) The apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising:

the regulator having an upper limit set below an exhaust flow that would tend to lift a semiconductor wafer in the hot plate apparatus.

3.(Original) The apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising:

the regulator having a preset high exhaust flow for operation at an end of a heating cycle to clean particles from an interior of the hot plate apparatus.

4.(Original) The apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising:

the exhaust portion of the hot plate apparatus being an exhaust conduit communicating with a manifold of a central exhaust conduit.

5.(Original) The apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising:

the exhaust portion of the hot plate apparatus being an exhaust conduit communicating with a manifold of a central exhaust conduit;

another hot plate apparatus having an exhaust conduit communicating with the manifold;

another flow control valve in the corresponding exhaust conduit; and

another flow meter in the corresponding exhaust conduit.

6.(Currently Amended) A method of controlling a thickness and a surface profile of a photo resist layer, comprising the steps of;

providing a manufacturing recipe ~~of the~~ of a photo resist material, with the recipe including an exhaust flow value of a PEB apparatus, and

controlling the exhaust flow of the PEB apparatus to the exhaust flow value while the photo resist material is heated in the PEB apparatus to a solidified photo resist layer of controlled thickness and surface profile.

7.(Original) The method as in claim 6, further comprising the step of: varying the exhaust flow with a control valve.

8.(Original) The method as in claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

varying the exhaust flow with a control valve; and

varying the control valve with a motor.

9.(Original) The method as in claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

- varying the exhaust flow with a control valve;
- varying the control valve with a motor;
- driving the motor with a motor drive circuit; and
- providing a first input signal to drive the motor.

10.(Original) The method as in claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

- varying the exhaust flow with a control valve;
- varying the control valve with a motor;
- driving the motor with a motor drive circuit;
- providing a first input signal to drive the motor; and
- providing a second refined input signal to drive the motor.

11.(Currently Amended) A method of cleaning a chamber of a hot plate apparatus, comprising the steps of:

- controlling the exhaust flow of the ~~PEB~~ apparatus to the exhaust flow value while the photo resist material is heated in the ~~PEB~~ apparatus to a solidified photo resist layer; and
- increasing the exhaust flow to clean the chamber.

12.(Original) The method as in claim 11, further comprising the step of: varying the exhaust flow with a control valve.

13.(Original) The method as in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

varying the exhaust flow with a control valve; and

varying the control valve with a motor.

14.(Original) The method as in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

varying the exhaust flow with a control valve;

varying the control valve with a motor;

driving the motor with a motor drive circuit; and

providing a first input signal to drive the motor.

15.(Original) The method as in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

varying the exhaust flow with a control valve;

varying the control valve with a motor;

driving the motor with a motor drive circuit;

providing a first input signal to drive the motor; and

providing a second refined input signal to drive the motor.